

9

Not a Book

THE
ALBUM AMICORUM
OF
ADAM HAREL
AND OTHER PAPERS OF
DR. CHRISTIAN HAREL

JANUARY 29, 1914

Habent Theologi Verbum DEI scriptum, Jurisconsulti suas Leges : ab illo recedere impium est : ab hisce piaculum. Medici vero nil tale, sed solam rationem experientiam, quibus pro fundamento nitantur, habent, à quibus si Veterum aut Neotericorum scripta declinent, non improbandum, sed veritati potius, quam authoritati locum demus.

Adam Harel, of Aix-la-Chapelle, was a student of the apothecaries' art in the University of Vienna in 1624, and Dr. John Ruland, who was probably one of his teachers there, wrote the above sentences in a very beautiful hand in an album bound in brown stamped leather, and bearing on its central panel, on one side, the initials A · H · A for Adam Harel Aquisgranensis, and on the other, the date 1621, which no doubt is the year in which his career as a student began.

Many students in the continental universities had such albums in the seventeenth century, in which their friends and fellow-students wrote short original remarks in prose or verse, or quotations from sacred or profane literature in Latin, Greek, Hebrew, or Arabic, or in some modern language ; or inserted drawings, most often of their coats of arms, adding their own signatures with the date and place of signing, and their good wishes to the owner of the book. Adam Harel's book begins with a rough drawing of his own coat of arms, followed by some French verses. These are followed by German lines explaining the purpose of the book :

Dis Buch vor gute Hern unnd Freund.

“ Auch vor alle Wolthater mein
Aus gutter meinung ist gemacht
Wan sich begeb ein solche zeitt
Denn mancher zeucht in fremdelandt
Wan ich nun vor mich nim dis Buch
So find ich offft ein Nahmen drin
Dem wunsch ich als dan Gluck und Heil.”

After some more German lines, six Latin rules of life and a French couplet, all more or less prefatory, there is a finely painted page of Harel's armorial bearings—“ Azure, between three estoiles or, a fleur de lys argent.” Then follow the inscriptions of his friends. In this, as in many such albums, the pages first used are those at the end of the book. Thus traced the dates show that he began his studies at Heidelberg in 1621 and stayed there till the end of September, 1623, was at Vienna, July, 1624, to March, 1625, at Dresden, June, 1625, to April, 1626, and at Berlin, July, 1626, to April, 1627, besides some shorter periods at Leipzig and other towns. At his two universities of Heidelberg and Vienna he is described as “pharmaceuticæ artis candidatus,” or “artis peoniæ studiosus,” or “artis pharmacopolarum studiosus.”

At Heidelberg a friend wrote for him inaccurately a line of the Schola Salernitana :

“Contra vim mortis non est medicamentum in hortis.”





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“*Pauca hæc scripsi Dno. Adam. Harel. artis pharmacop. studios. ad memoriam suam perpetuam: Nicolaus Deustad 2 Aprilis 1623 Heidelbergensis.*”

Another friend painted three ladies in ruffs and wide-spreading gowns and wrote beneath :

“*Juno, Diana, Venus, seruitia multa Requirunt.
Pauca recompensant, Juno, Diana, Venus.*”

At Vienna one friend quotes Plautus, another Sallust, a third Cicero, while a fourth, a physician of high degree, gives good advice in his own prose :

“*Elige laudatissimum uiuendi genus, nec difficultate deterrearis:
Facilitatem enim conciliabit assuetudo.*”

“*Ferdinandus Matthiolus Ferdinando II Cæsari a Consiliis, et Cubiculis Medicus, Sacri Palatii Comes et auratæ militiæ Eques. Scribebat 13 Septembris AN. 1624. Augustæ Vindeliciorum.*”

The year 1627 is the last of the inscriptions, except one made in 1644 : “*Pro Deo et meo,*” by Mauritius, Duke of Saxony. Adam Harel certainly practised as an apothecary and most likely in his native town. King Charles II, poor and in exile, was at Aix-la-Chapelle in 1654, and may have employed Adam Harel, the apothecary, and this may perhaps be the reason that another member of the Harel family came to England after the Restoration and enjoyed the royal favour.

This was Christian Harel, who was appointed in 1670 to the post of “*Professor in chimistry and Apothecarie to his Majestie.*” His emoluments, as another paper dated March 31, 1677, shows, were £150 a year as “*Chimicall Professor*” and £40 a year as “*Apothecarie in ordinarie.*” The former was given by letters patent under the Great Seal, the latter by a grant under the Privy Seal. By 1677, however, he had only received £150, “*soe there Remaines due to him £1,105.*” Eight years later he obtained a certificate stating that £2,605 were owing for these offices at the time of Charles II's death. In that year, 1685, the Exchequer paid £1,918 6s. 8d. to Dr. Harel, but £2,872 14s. still remained due to him. He did not relinquish his claim, and seems to have received further payments which perhaps extinguished it. He was made physician in ordinary to King William and Queen Mary on May 29, 1689, and in 1702 King William gave him a pension of £200 a year. Dr. Christian Harel was admitted a fellow of our College April 12, 1687. He wrote a note of Queen Mary's fatal illness in 1694 :

“*The circumstances which her Majesty was in during her sickness.*”

“*Thursday, the 20th of December, 1694.—Her majesty came to Whitehall about noon, and being returned to Kinsington found herself not well :*”

"Friday, the 21st.—Her majesty complained of an headache with an inclination to vomit, upon which the Physitians then present, did advise her Majesty to make use of a Carduus posset, which her Majesty was pleas'd to take four or five times with good success.

"Saturday, the 22nd.—Her Majesty complain'd of a pain in her head and back, with a flushing all over her face almost like St. Anthony's fire. The physitians having consider'd her Maj^{ties} case, thought it necessary to open a vein, and to draw off about nine ounces of blood; in the afternoon Dr. Radcliff met the Physitians, and being inform'd by them of Her Majesty's conditions and the remedys they had exhibited, he approv'd of what they had done, and having joyn'd with them in a consultation, it was agreed on, to apply a blistering plaister the same night between her shoulders, and that a cordial bolus should be given immediately after.

"Sunday, the 23rd.—Her Majesty, having had an indifferent good night, found herself something easier, and the physitians upon seeing her Majesty perceiv'd some few eruptions, which appear'd more distinctly at night.

"Monday, the 24th.—The physitians, being admitted to visit Her Maj^{stie}, were all of opinion it would prove the small pox, and pursued the method they had begun: at night they perceiv'd her face began to swell.

"Tuesday, the 25th.—Her Majesty, having had a very favourable night, told the physitians she found herself much better; but towards night grew worse and her feaver increas'd, and had but a very indifferent night, notwithstanding the same remedys were applied as before.

"Wednesday, the 26th.—The physitians, after having visited her Majesty, found her much alter'd for the worse, and would not resolve on anything further, till they had the advice and assistance of more physitians, who having seen her Maj^{tie} and consider'd her condition, joyn'd with the rest in a consultation in which it was unanimously resolved to let her Maj^{tie} blood and apply blistering plaisters and plaisters to the feet, and to give her such medicines as are necessary and proper in Her Maj^{ties} case.

"Her Majestie continu'd very restless all night and scarce slept at all, but only dozd and slumberd by intervals.

"Thursday, ye 27th.—The physitians found her Majestie so desperately ill that they absolutely despair'd of her recovery, and notwithstanding the advice of more physitians, and all the endeavours imaginable, she grew worse and worse from time to time till she expir'd, which was about a quarter before one a clock on friday morning: *the 28 of December 1694.*"

Dr. Christian Harel's notes show that he was a foreigner, and his possession of the album of Adam Harel, the apothecary of Aix-la-Chapelle, indicates that he was his son. I have had the opportunity of examining Dr. Christian Harel's papers which are preserved with the album, and its owner, a descendant of a famous royalist who was President of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and was sent to the Tower by the Commonwealth, in 1649, has lent it to me so that it may be seen in the Library this evening.

NORMAN MOORE.